Part of a letter from E. Quincy to Caroline Weston

duction of machinery this would be in a few years overcome
Altogether it was a satisfactory interview, and the Colored Gentle-
man had not a word to say for himself. I was sorry that I had
not made his acquaintance before as I believe he has left
town. They gave a ball at the Tremont House the next night
& return the attentions they had received.

Dedham March 9th 1844

The only other event of universal interest was the Needham
Convention yesterday - of which I will proceed to give a succinct
account. I had visited Needham a week or two ago for
the purpose of making arrangements for this Convention and
found them in the greenest & tenderest condition imaginable.
Young Kimball, a very nice young man indeed, seemed to be
an intelligent abolitionist after the manner of Unitarians -
of the brotherly kind - truly interested in the cause but not
able to see why we could not all work together &c. I bore
a faithful testimony, as you may believe, and expounded the
doctrine of Liberty Party in the best manner I was able. The
father who is a half pay Unitarian minister - retired upon a
farm & a school - seemed a very well disposed good sort of
man, who takes the Liberator, which is certainly a sign of
grace. He wanted to know whether I did not think W. Lloyd
was sometimes a little too harsh & denunciatory. I replied
that I thought he only called things by their right names
& could not recollect that I had ever said anything about
Slaveholders or pro-Slavery men that I thought too severe &.
But when poor Mrs Kimball came in she implored me almost
with tears in her eyes not to hold the Convention there. I
replied in the blandest manner possible that I thought
that very request showed that it was the very place
of all others to hold it in. "But it was not Anti-Slavery

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that she was afraid of, but the often things that were brought in against the Church & ministry & Sabbath." I assured her that she need not apprehend any attacks upon the Church & ministry but only upon their sins. So "I calmed her fears & she was calm", and when I explained matters fully they seemed to be pretty well content. The two men I must say however behaved candidly & did not seem to think the religious world in so much danger as the good lady. But they evidently all looked upon me as a limb of Satan if not Satan himself. Even the young man who called at my door a day or two afterwards in some business connected with the meeting, wished me to understand that he did not agree with me on other subjects! not seeming to understand that I must of course differ just as much from him as the same. However at length the great the important day arrived. W^m L. & I had made a voyage of discovery the day before towards those regions and found the travelling so horrible that we came to the conclusion that it was hardly safe to go in any sort of conveyance - so I walked for the best part of the way after the faithful Bob had carried me as far as seemed consistent with safety. I went forthwith to the accomplished Abelard's. He was not at home - not having returned from a Temperance Meeting in Dorchester. He lives in a comfortable house with a large garden & almost a paradise of a wooden wall for fruit apparently. A good deal of money has evidently been laid out there but not to the best advantage. In the house I found James Buffum and Clapp who had come over from the Francestown Convention. And then such Leahs & children! John Rogers himself,

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though he might have been more a master, could not have been more a dictator than he was the last time the measure was to see half a dozen boys all about ten years of age! Anne would be shocked & make me a panic exit. Her friend were other than disappointed & me literally "at the least" & we were pleased & understand that there was any chance more exciting agen with the measles. Clark & Kaplan were full of the Temperance Convention & the success that endeavors to frighten the Liberty Party Majority & hinder the Convention from being fully attended. And yet Clark told me that there was nothing said about liberty but Bit he was there only one day & did not know what they have belonged of it. At ten o'clock we met at the meeting house & by eleven we have a very good audience indeed for a small place - the organized & Gov. Lot in the Business Committee. As this was the first meeting ever held in the town, literally the first time that the subject was ever touched - I thought it necessary to go it fair principles and feed them with facts. Accordingly had it in a resolution on the Importance & Duty of Immediate Emancipation &c. Just as I was going to offer it Mr. Mason, the minister of the Church, rose & desired to know before having been made a U.S. what the character of the Convention was to be - whether it was to be an A.S. Convention or an Anti-Church & Minister Convention." I replied that a captious person might regard such a question in the light of a reflection upon the Convention as it implied a distrust of those who got it up, but I would only say that there was no grounds for the inquiry as respects me. He disclaimed any intention to insult the Convention, but opposed that he had good reason to

ask the question on account of what had been said about at a Conference of Colored Men that the Church Question proper had also been acted upon by very Antislavery folks in Massachusetts - though we had dealt faithfully with professed Church & Clergy, though individuals in their own responsibility might have rejected the Secession Communion. Such as we settled the matter. At last however we got at the resolution & Douglas Delano, who had arrived after the meeting had begun, spoke very well. The mover of the resolution, however, had given a wrong bias to the meeting which it did not recover. D. D. sought to [illegible] and the everlasting Church Question seemed like to [illegible] the whole thing - when it was a matter of no importance & little importance. Next to said not know what they were talking about. When we adjourned I went home with Whittaker with Clark & Sappington & demonstrated to them that it was unnecessary to take action about the duties of the Church & people who did not hold to a Church having civil power, and who knew nothing on the subject of Slavery etc. Sappington did not know what to do. Whittaker said I thought it showed no little courage in public sentiment that the principles which I & my countrymen entertained, where there had been no special agitation of the subject should take home two black men & drink with him. Whittaker was also very decided & seemed the courage of our convictions. The [illegible] Dorchester dined after the meeting began. He and Mr. C. provided entertainment for the strangers. The Baltimore people showed us a little kindness. W. seemed in a very friendly state of mind & ready to hear and read & not having anything of any account against our position - has resented the [illegible] & will reflect upon the matter. His brother is editor of the Southern Review & has married about a hundred slaves so that he has possibly difficulties in the way

becoming an Abolitionist but I dare say he runs him a
close heat. In the afternoon we had a political discussion
about the Whigs & Democrats. But the greenness of the matter
was beyond imagination. We certainly want an instrument to
measure the interest taken at this election. But
Sat 2 I have no time to describe the waddling about you
can easily imagine. The most important letter I have had
was that of Bx good Thanksgiving - what use we
do of it. Then I brought in a resolution on Liberty Party, on my
own account, that Indiana Committee having declined acceptance. Upon
which I made a decent gossiping declamation of Liberty Party
and Liberty Party. Clapp also pitched into it in his usual style.
Tho I brought on a Liberty Party Baptist Deacon who in a great
rage understood it as an attack upon the Baptist Church was not
a good Abolitionist & a good friend & Laterus? Dowlas behaved
very badly on this point. He of course could not disallow Colver
attack the Baptists about him, or did Burtham, but then he made
a decent comment of the effect. He was very thin Saturday
look more ah. He had wished it might have been fixed later in
Lisbon. That we did not [illegible] there convenient for
the purpose of keeping Liberty Party. He knew there were those
who hated Liberty Party. The Democrats hated it. The Whigs
Democrats hated it. Some Abolitionists hated it. But the
Slave holds Liberty Party. And he says we must
say that he loves Liberty Party. Though there were some
bad men in it in this part of the Country. Just as there exist
evils in the mass it was made in a good manner. That he was
surprised at the opposition which Liberty Party men made to the
Constitution. That he wondered that as more political they
did not pass them, as their object must be left to Providence.
There was much more & but that was the substance. He did
not know them, for Sam Lobby & say, that they all showed
the most laudable determination to vote for Clay & Frelinghuysen